

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for processing objects within a data processing system in a network, the method comprising:
- storing a content object in a cache using a cache identifier for the content object that is based on a URI (Uniform Resource Identifier) for the content object and
- 10 a cookie value associated with the content object;
- receiving a request containing the URI and an associated cookie having the cookie value;
- retrieving the content object from the cache using the URI and the cookie value; and
- 15 returning a response containing the content object.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the cookie value is associated with a user role.
- 20 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the content object is a role-specific fragment.

4. A method for processing objects within a data processing system in a network, the method comprising:

receiving a first response message at a first computing device, wherein the first response message comprises a fragment and a source identifier for a fragment, wherein the first response message is associated with a first cookie having a cookie value, and wherein the first response message is directed to a first client device;

generating a cache identifier for the fragment based on the source identifier and the cookie value;

storing the fragment in a cache at the first computing device using the cache identifier;

receiving a request message at the first computing device from a second client device, wherein the request message contains the source identifier for the fragment, and wherein the request message is associated with a second cookie having the cookie value;

in response to receiving the request message, generating the cache identifier for the fragment based on the source identifier and the cookie value;

retrieving the fragment from the cache using the cache identifier;

generating a second response message comprising the fragment; and

sending the second response message to the second client device.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:
authenticating at a server a first user at the first
client device;

in response to authenticating the first user,
5 determining a user category to which the first user
belongs;

generating the cookie value to represent the user
category; and

10 sending from the server the first response message
and the first cookie.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising:
authenticating at a server a second user at the
second client device;

15 in response to authenticating the second user,
determining that the second user belongs to the user
category;

generating the cookie value to represent the user
category; and

20 sending from the server a third response message and
the second cookie.

7. The method of claim 4 further comprising:
determining the cookie value based on a user
25 category.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:
determining the user category based on membership of
a user of a client device within a group of users.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the group of users comprises a subset of users in a company, an institution, an association, or an organization.

5 10. The method of claim 8 wherein the group of users comprises users associated with an employee role.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the group of users comprises users associated with a consumer category.

10 12. The method of claim 4 wherein the cookie value is encrypted.

15 13. The method of claim 4 wherein the source identifier is formatted as a URI (Uniform Resource Identifier).

20 14. The method of claim 4 wherein the first response message is an HTTP (Hypertext Transport Protocol) Response message and the request message is an HTTP Request message.

15. An apparatus for processing objects within a data processing system in a network, the apparatus comprising:

means for storing a content object in a cache using a cache identifier for the content object that is based
5 on a URI (Uniform Resource Identifier) for the content object and a cookie value associated with the content object;

means for receiving a request containing the URI and an associated cookie having the cookie value;

10 means for retrieving the content object from the cache using the URI and the cookie value; and

means for returning a response containing the content object.

15 16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the cookie value is associated with a user role.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the content object is a role-specific fragment.

18. An apparatus for processing objects within a data processing system in a network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a first response message at a first computing device, wherein the first response message comprises a fragment and a source identifier for a fragment, wherein the first response message is associated with a first cookie having a cookie value, and wherein the first response message is directed to a first client device;

means for generating a cache identifier for the fragment based on the source identifier and the cookie value;

means for storing the fragment in a cache at the first computing device using the cache identifier;

means for receiving a request message at the first computing device from a second client device, wherein the request message contains the source identifier for the fragment, and wherein the request message is associated with a second cookie having the cookie value;

means for generating the cache identifier for the fragment based on the source identifier and the cookie value in response to receiving the request message;

means for retrieving the fragment from the cache using the cache identifier;

means for generating a second response message comprising the fragment; and

means for sending the second response message to the second client device.

19. The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising:

means for authenticating at a server a first user at the first client device;

5 means for determining a user category to which the first user belongs in response to authenticating the first user;

means for generating the cookie value to represent the user category; and

10 means for sending from the server the first response message and the first cookie.

20. The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising:

means for authenticating at a server a second user at the second client device;

15 means for determining that the second user belongs to the user category in response to authenticating the second user;

means for generating the cookie value to represent the user category; and

20 means for sending from the server a third response message and the second cookie.

21. The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising:

25 means for determining the cookie value based on a user category.

22. The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:

30 means for determining the user category based on membership of a user of a client device within a group of users.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the group of users comprises a subset of users in a company, an institution, an association, or an organization.

5 24. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the group of users comprises users associated with an employee role.

25. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the group of users comprises users associated with a consumer category.

10

26. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the cookie value is encrypted.

15

27. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the source identifier is formatted as a URI (Uniform Resource Identifier).

20

28. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the first response message is an HTTP (Hypertext Transport Protocol) Response message and the request message is an HTTP Request message.

29. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use within a data processing system in a network for processing objects, the computer program product comprising:

5 instructions for storing a content object in a cache using a cache identifier for the content object that is based on a URI (Uniform Resource Identifier) for the content object and a cookie value associated with the content object;

10 instructions for receiving a request containing the URI and an associated cookie having the cookie value;

 instructions for retrieving the content object from the cache using the URI and the cookie value; and

15 instructions for returning a response containing the content object.

30. The computer program product of claim 29 wherein the cookie value is associated with a user role.

20 31. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the content object is a role-specific fragment.

32. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use within a data processing system in a network for processing objects, the computer program product comprising:

5 instructions for receiving a first response message at a first computing device, wherein the first response message comprises a fragment and a source identifier for a fragment, wherein the first response message is associated with a first cookie having a cookie value, and
10 wherein the first response message is directed to a first client device;

 instructions for generating a cache identifier for the fragment based on the source identifier and the cookie value;

15 instructions for storing the fragment in a cache at the first computing device using the cache identifier;

 instructions for receiving a request message at the first computing device from a second client device, wherein the request message contains the source
20 identifier for the fragment, and wherein the request message is associated with a second cookie having the cookie value;

 instructions for generating the cache identifier for the fragment based on the source identifier and the
25 cookie value in response to receiving the request message;

 instructions for retrieving the fragment from the cache using the cache identifier;

 instructions for generating a second response
30 message comprising the fragment; and

instructions for sending the second response message to the second client device.

33. The computer program product of claim 32 further comprising:

instructions for authenticating at a server a first user at the first client device;

instructions for determining a user category to which the first user belongs in response to authenticating the first user;

instructions for generating the cookie value to represent the user category; and

instructions for sending from the server the first response message and the first cookie.

34. The computer program product of claim 33 further comprising:

instructions for authenticating at a server a second user at the second client device;

instructions for determining that the second user belongs to the user category in response to authenticating the second user;

instructions for generating the cookie value to represent the user category; and

instructions for sending from the server a third response message and the second cookie.

35. The computer program product of claim 32 further comprising:

instructions for determining the cookie value based on a user category.

36. The computer program product of claim 35 further comprising:

instructions for determining the user category based on membership of a user of a client device within a group of users.

37. The computer program product of claim 36 wherein the group of users comprises a subset of users in a company, an institution, an association, or an organization.

38. The computer program product of claim 36 wherein the group of users comprises users associated with an employee role.

39. The computer program product of claim 36 wherein the group of users comprises users associated with a consumer category.

40. The computer program product of claim 32 wherein the cookie value is encrypted.

41. The computer program product of claim 32 wherein the source identifier is formatted as a URI (Uniform Resource Identifier).

42. The computer program product of claim 32 wherein the first response message is an HTTP (Hypertext Transport Protocol) Response message and the request message is an HTTP Request message.